Wipe the slate clean

With a renewed commitment

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
EZRA—Keeper of the Covenant
Lesson for October 26, 1980
Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 8: 1 to 9:38
Focal Passages: Nehemiah 8:2-3; 9:32-38

Introduction

Last week we studied about Jeremiah and his dual role as a prophet of doom and as a prophet of hope. The national calamity Jeremiah foretold became a stark reality. The people of Judah were taken into captivity and faced the tragedy of losing their home and their country. Why? Had God changed his heart towards the people of Judah? Was the covenant no longer in effect? This week we focus our attention upon two remarkable leaders of renewal, Ezra and Nehemiah. These two men joined together in moving the people back into a more stable covenant relationship with God.

Reading of the Law [Neh. 8:1-12]

I have noted in some churches that the reading of the scriptures has special place and significance in the order of worship. It is customary in some churches that the congregation stand during the reading of the scriptures. In other churches the scriptures are read from a prominent place in the sanctuary. Such traditions emphasize the important place that God's word occupies in the minds and hearts of the believers.

Our lesson reminds us that Ezra was asked to read the law to the people. A special staging was built just for the occasion of reading the law. Everyone gathered to hear the reading and to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God.

Anytime the Word of God is read it evokes certain responses within us. Hearing the scriptures may elicit from us the responses of joy, celebration, remorse, fear or sorrow. Nevertheless, the reading of the scriptures calls us to a renewal of our relationship to God and to one another.

Celebrating the Feast [Neh. 8:13-18]

Sometimes a hearing of the scriptures will spark a renewed interest in their meaning. Thus, we may express that interest in deeper study and understanding of the Bible. Anytime the scriptures are taken seriously, one will begin to discover deeper meaning to life.

In our scripture passage this week we note that following the reading of the law the people gathered for a feast. Eating is often an expression of some spirit of celebration. We celebrate Christmas with a big festive meal. Anniversaries and birthdays are quite often celebrated with a special dinner. Churches often gather for fellowship, suppes after an evening worship service. Of course, fall is the time of the year when many churches have homecoming celebrations, tapped off with a big feast!

Ezra discovered that one of the special feasts had long been neglected. This feast was known as the Feast of the Booths; or Feast of Tabernacles. This feast had been ordained by God as a time to recall the wilderness fairness and the time when the Israelites lived in makeshift shelters. The feast symbolized a time to give thanks for the bountiful blessings of God, and particularly his deliverance of them during their sojourn in a strange land.

A Renewed Commitment [Neh. 9:1-38]

We earthlings do not always choose the right paths. We make blunders which harm us and others. We break promises and fail to fulfill certain commitments to ourselves, others, and God. There comes a time when we must mend the brokenness we and others feel because of our sin. In our worship there is often a time to confess our sins and to make peace with self and God.

Ezra moved the people to repent for past sins and to start with a clean slate. It feels good to make a new start. New jobs, new school years, anniversaries, rededication of life to Christ and the church, are all times when we "wipe the slate clean" and symbolically begin anew.

Nehemiah 9 reviews Israel's historical record, beginning with Abraham and the first covenant, the deliverance from Egypt, the wilderness sojourn, the conquest of Canaan, and the exile.

Following the historical record the people begin to confess their sin and to renew their covenant with God. The people also express a plea for mercy in their confession for past sins. A sense of remorse overshadowed them as they thought about their historical record.

At this point the people renewed their commitment in writing, which was signed by Nehemiah. The pen is indeed mightier than the sword! Written commitments are crucial in our society, particularly in consumer business affairs. When warring countries come together for peace, a signed peace treaty becomes a symbol of commitment to peace. Written letters become extensions of ourselves to our loved ones and friends.

Sometimes it helps to write out our commitments. To document our feelings can be a healthy move as we seek to express our love for God, our spouse, and our friends. But such written commitments are almost useless unless such commitments are also written on the heart.

– Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Ill. (WLYP)

LIONS MONTE MAYS, ROBERT EARL PANKEY, GERALD WILBUN AND ROBERT CARTER (from left) are shown with Benson's Fruitcakes which have just arrived in Appomattox for an Appomattox Lions Club charity sale. The local Lions Club members will be selling the tasty fruitcakes prior to the holiday season to raise money for various charities which the club supports.

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Letters

Editor's Note: The following letter was submitted to Ronnie Stevens, coordinator of the Joe Sweeney Classic ten-kilometer footrace held during the recent Historic Appomattox County Railroad Festival.

Ronnie,

I'm writing to say what a great job you and your volunteers did in the Second Annual Joe Sweeney 10K Classic. You may wonder who I am? We met in March in Va. Beach at the Shamrock Marathon. We in Va. Beach at the Shamrock Marathon. We both were eating breakfast at McDonalds the morning after the marathon. As I remember, my wife told you last year's Joe Sweeney 10K was my first road race. Well, I'm proud to say, I've run both of them now.

well organized road race. I, along with two of my running buddies, came from Radford, Va. This year for the race. They both really enjoyed themselves and thought your race was one of the best races they have run. The course is a well marked, pretty course. The mile splits were called out real clear, aid stations were manned well, traffic control excellent, and the finish chute was set up great with no confusion at the end of the race.

We had to get back to Radford after the race so we couldn't stay for the awards. But last year I stayed for the awards and they were real well and I enjoyed them also. One of the things we all three were impressed with was the great job the Rescue Squad did this year. The temperature was a lot hotter in this year's race and a few runners were overcome by the heat and needed medical attention. The first aid crews were right on the spot and did a tremendous job. I've run some races this summer where they didn't have adequate water stations or first aid attention, but the Joe Sweeney 10 K as excellent in both cases.

I would like to thank you personally for all your hard work and efforts, planning and directing a well organized road race. Ronnie, I didn't get a chance to talk to you before or after the race. I know you were busy and had a lot on your mind. Maybe we will see each other at some races this fall. We have a real nice 10K race in Radford in May each spring. Maybe you and some of your people from Appomattox can come and run our race. Well, good luck with your running. Thank the following people of Appomattox for us. (1) the people of Appomattox for their friendliness and hospitality, (2) the police dept. for a great job of traffic control, (3) The Rescue Squads for their excellent first aid attention. (4) To all of your volunteers who gave splits; worked aid stations, worked finish line, and all the people involved who made the 2nd Annual Joe Sweeney 10K Classic a great and fun road race. (5) To the sponsors who helped make the race possible.

Great Job!
Eddie Midkiff
40 Ridge Road
Radford, Va. 24141

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Appomattox for a lovely weekend recently spent in your town.

I am a resident of Charleston, S.C., recently widowed, and have been visiting with friends in Richmond for the past few months. My friends brought me to Appomattox on the weekend of September 13 to attend a license plate collectors' convention at your beautiful high school.

I enjoyed the hospitality of local motel and restaurant personnel, but nothing matched the gracious service of the convention host, Mr. Armentrout, who was most generous with high school facilities.

We had a wonderful time and I must thank the people of Appomattox who allowed their school to be used for such an event, even though the only person from your town who belongs to the organization was Mr. Armentrout. I look forward to another visit to your charming town!

Sincerely,
Mrs. D. M. Stewart
Charleston, S.C.

High attendance day set for Liberty Chapel

High-attendance day will be held at Liberty Chapel Baptist Church on Nov. 2, according to V. W. Garrett, Sr., Sunday School Director for the church.

The event is part of a Southern Baptist Convention-wide effort. The Convention attendance goal is 5 million; the state goal is 205,000.

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church, located on Route 3 in Appomattox County, is 205 years old and currently undergoing remodeling, according to Garrett. "We are asking for any change in the pockets of our friends for help," he adds.

The goal at Liberty Chapel for high-attendance day is 200, according to Garrett.

The pastor speaks

An enduring friendship

By REV. G. E. HUGHES
Red Oak Baptist Church

One is fortunate if he has good friends.

Jonathan and David are a fable example of a wonderful friendship. They met in the army of Israel when it was at war with the Philistine army. The two armies were facing each other on either side of a valley. Each morning and evening the Philistine giant Goliath would walk down into the valley and shout his defiant challenge to the Israelis. He insulted the army of Israel. David, singlehanded, killed the giant Goliath with a sling-shot and cut his head off with the giant's sword. As David brought the severed head to Saul he met Jonathan and from that time forth they became fast friends.

Their friendship was characterized by trust. At their first meeting there was an immediate bond of brotherly love between them. Jonathan made a covenant of friendship with David by giving him his robe, sword, bow and belt. A friendship begins by two people trusting each other.

And then their friendship was characterized by loyalty. He had to be loyal to David in very difficult circumstances. Jonathan's father, Saul, turned against David and Jonathan had to save David from the jealousy and anger of his own father.

What else can we say of this great friendship? It endured. It endured through the ups and downs of life. It endured beyond the death of Jonathan. After Jonathan was dead David asked: "Is there yet any left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake" (11 Samuel 9:1). And he was told that Jonathan had a son whose name was Mephibosheth and he was lame. David showed great kindness to him.

We are thankful for our friends. Above all we are thankful for Jesus our constant friend, our Saviour and Lord.

Rescue squad reports

During the month of September the Appomatox County Rescue Squad responded to a total of 76 calls. In doing so, they traveled a total of 2,904 miles and spent 405 ½ manhours.

Enroute to the hospital, eight (8) persons required oxygen and eight (8) were monitored on the mobile EKG unit.

A breakdown of the calls is as follows:

Falls four (4), overdoses two (2), auto wrecks two (2), standby at football games seven (7), breathing difficulty four (4), search two (2), power saw accidents two (2), dog bite one (1), broken bones five (5), chest pain one (1), stab wound one (1), stroke three (3), heart attack two (2), fire one (1), D.O.A. one (1), standby at fair one (1), kidney stone one (1), industrial accident one (1), diabetes one (1), bee sting one (1), convulsion two (2), abdominal pain one (1); transport twenty-two (22), miscellaneous one (1), false call one (1), and calls canceled one (1).

Locals in program

Longwood College seniors, in the final phase of their teacher training, are doing ten weeks of classroom teaching in schools throughout Virginia.

The teacher-trainees are under the direction of a local teacher and are supervised by two Longwood faculty members, one from their major area of study and one from the department of education.

Prior to the student teaching experience, Longwood's education majors engage in classroom observation, via closed circuit television, and serve as teacher-aides at the college's Wynne Campus School. In addition, they participate in special seminars designed to acquaint them with innovations in education, the particular needs and problems of handicapped children, and the constitutional and legal rights of both teachers and students.

Longwood's comprehensive program of teacher training is recognized throughout the state, as evidenced by the job placement record of the college's graduates. The placement report on 1979 graduates shows that 94 percent of the education majors were employed within a year.

The teacher training program at Longwood is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Virginia State Board of Education.

Student teaching from this area are: Wanda D. Brown (Pamplin), K-8; Danny W. Penny (Spout Spring), Grade -8; Maryjane Smith (Pamplin), Health and physical education.

Happiness is 4-H

4-H projects that have been turned in during the past year are being judged this week. Project materials will be returned to 4-H'ers during November. 4-H'ers will be recognized for their outstanding work at the Annual 4-H Awards Banquet in January.

* * *

All 4-H'ers have selected new project materials for the current year. Parents are encouraged to assist their youngsters in the completion of their projects by lending assistance as needed. Many learning activities are more valuable when an adult shows interest and offers assistance.

* * *

Senior 4-H'ers need to begin thinking seriously about 4-H achievement records. Record forms and instructions are available from the Extension Office. The completed record will be due by January 20.

* * *

4-H Share-the-Fun time is fast approaching and many 4-H'ers are looking forward to this exciting 4-H activity. Share-the-Fun program will begin in late November. 4-H'ers should begin planning ahead and practicing their act so they will be prepared. An act may have up to four 4-H'ers and should last 4-5 minutes.

4-H'ers who have taken Horse Projects may be interested in two special guides that are available. The guides are entitled "Horses and Horsemanship" and "Horse Science". They are available. The guides are entitled "Horses and Horsemanship" and "Horse Science". They are available from the Extension Office at a price for thirty cents each.

THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN
(USPS 630-800)
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY ATLANTIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. IN HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COUNTY
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA 24522
ESTABLISHED IN 1895

Bill Sherrod ..... Editor and General Manager
Frances Paulette ..... Assistant Editor
Allen Austin ..... Advertising Manager
Beck Hudson ..... Production Manager
Melaine Penley ..... Classified

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P. O. Box 3307, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Subscription rates: $8.00 a year in Appomattox, and all adjoining counties; All others $10.00, payable in advance.
Member: Virginia Press Association
Single Copy: 20 cents.

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Bob Lee
PASTOR

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Mrs. Clifton Carson

Mrs. Kevin Randall Collins

photo by Robert E. Pankey

Miss Riggsby weds Mr. Carson

In an outdoor setting on a scenic mountaintop overlooking the Virginia Kentucky state line, Regina Rae Riggsby became the bride of Clifton Carson in a 2 p.m. ceremony Saturday, October 11, at Breaks Interstate Park, Breaks, Va.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Beager Riggsby of Harman, Va., and the groom is the son of Mrs. George P. Carson and the late Mr. Carson of Spout Spring near Appomattox, Va.

The Rev. Rufus Smith of Clintwood, Va., cousin of the bride, officiated at the double ring ceremony. The natural setting of autumn color, interspersed with pine, provided the only decoration.

Jimmy Hannah, friend of the bride, sang "My Cup Runneth Over" and "Annie's Song" prior to the ceremony, accompanying himself on the guitar. Ramona Farmer, aunt of the bride, sang "The Lord's Prayer" a cappella at the close of the ceremony.

Escorted by her father and given in marrige by her parents, the bride wore a formal wedding gown of white quiana, the sheer net of the yoke, appliqued with point d'esprit lace and pearls, extending into the full bishop sleeves. Lace of the same design trimmed the scalloped cuffs and the high neckline which featured a V insert. The full skirt and chapel train fell from a fitted bodice appliqued with venise lace and pearls. The veil of silk illusion, bordered with satin and lace applique, spilled from a Juiliet cap encrusted with pearls and lace. She wore diamond earrings, a gift from her parents, and carried a cascade of white daisies accented with rust pomposms and trailing ivy.

Robin Riggsby served her sister as maid of honor. Her gown of nectarine quiana featured a sheer yoke of ivory forming a V design in the front and extending down the back. Ivory lace trimmed the yoke, the long sleeves and the high Victorian neckline. She wore dried baby's breath in her upswept hair and carried a bouquet of rust chrysanthemums.

Dr. Gene Carson of Blacksburg, brother-in-law of the groom, served as best man.

The mother of the bride wore a dress of teal crepe with an ivory inset. The mother of the groom wore a dress of soft gray with matching embroidery detailing the collar and cuffs. Each wore corsages of white carnations.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party traveled by way of Nature Drive to the Lakeside Shelter where the reception was held. An autumn harvest theme was carried out in arrangements of autumn leaves, wild flowers, pumpkins and gourds, with baskets of polished apples and chestnuts completing the motif. The abundant use of baskets and wooden bowls for refreshments and throughout the decor complimented the natural surroundings.

The guest tables were covered with white cloths decorated with autumn leaves scattered at random and held in place by an overlay of gold netting. Brown candles, encirled with leaves, centered each table.

A fountain of gold, surrounded by cupids, formed the base of the three-tiered wedding cake. Topped by fresh flowers of rust and gold, the cake was the centerpeice for the buffet table.

Carol Bozzer, aunt of the bride, served the wedding cake and Freda Ratliff and Barbara Stiltner, friends of the bride, presided at the punch bowl.

Both the bride and groom are graduates of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, she in 1979 and he in 1978. The groom has recently begun a new position as agronomist with Mullins Consulting Engineers in Norton, Va.

Following a brief honeymoon trip, the couple will reside in Wise, Va.

Garden club slates meeting

The Appomattox Garden Club's October meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. next Monday evening in St. Anne's Episcopal Parish Hall. Guest speaker on the subject "Growing of Chrysanthemums" will be Mrs. Dorothy W. Elliott of Hampden-Sydney.

Artistic exhibits for this month are Class I -"Goblins' Time" and Class II-"Election Day". Designers may use their choice of material but each exhibit must include some fresh or dried plant material.

Miss Stanley is wed to Mr. Collins

The marriage of Miss Jan Stanley to Kevin Randall Collins took place Saturday morning, Oct. 18, 1980, at 11 o'clock in Liberty Baptist Church under an arch formed of greens, fall leaves, and silk fall flowers on fans.

The Rev. Rex Bennett, pastor of the church, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Byrd Stanley of Appomattox. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Collins of Lynchburg.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, wore a gown of candelight Peau De Chine with a frosting of silk Venice lace on the high neckline which formed a deep plunge to the waist. A ruffle of pearled Guipure lace etched the plunge and detailed the upper Bell sleeves and fitted inset cuffs. Her full skirt with attached train featured a ruffled hem trimmed in silk Venice lace. Delicate Guipure lace formed an apron detail on the skirt front, sides and back. Her customed designed veil was of matching candelight Guipure lace trimmed her chapel length double silk illusion veil with pearled Guipure lace covering her camelot ensamble. She carried a cascade bouquet of cream champaign pom poms, miniature carnations and baby's breath centered with cream cymbidium orchids.

Deborah Chernault of Appomattox was maid of honor and attendants were Debra Patrick of Lynchburg, sister of the bridegroom; Laura Cheatham of Clearwater, Florida, cousin of the bride; Jeannie Stimpson of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Jane Hill of Virginia Beach, Lisa Inge of Lynchburg, and Patricia Hudson of Appomattox.

The maid of honor and the attendants wore identical floor length gowns of chiffon in the color of spice. Their accordian pleated skirts fell from an empire waist with capes of matching chiffon. They wore picture hats with turned up brim and trimmed with brown plumes. They carried fans adorned with bouquets of silk fall flowers.

Mr. Collins was best man for his son. Ushers were Mark Collins of Lynchburg, brother of the bridegroom; Joseph Patrick of Lynchburg, brother-in-law of the bridegroom; Zack Cheatham of Clearwater, Florida, cousin of the bride; Bill Hopkens of Appomattox, Phil Rice of Pamplin, and Terry Wilkes of Lynchburg. Ring bearer was James Douglas Collins, son of the groom.

Mrs. Joyce Vaughan was organist, Miss Debbie Rush was pianist and a program of wedding music was sung by Mrs. Charlene Lawson.

Mistresses of ceremonies were Mrs. Minnie Massie, aunt of the bride, and Mrs. Frances Hill.

Immediately following the ceremony the bride's parents entertained with a reception in the church Fellowship Hall.

After a wedding trip to Aruba in the Carribbean, the couple will make their home in Lynchburg.

Society News

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shipley of Bennington, Ill. and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shipley of Forest were guests of their aunt, Mrs. S. J. Evans, on Sunday.

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Glovn, of Porthcawl, Wales, their daughter, Susan, of Nassau, the Bahamas, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Cope, of Hilltop Lakes, Texas, have returned to their homes after spending the past three weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. McLaughlin at Green Oakers.

* * * *

Carolyn Thompson is a patient at Lynchburg General Hospital, where she is recovering from recent surgery.

* * * *

Mrs. Hazel Wilbun and Mrs. Jessie Carwile joined a tour group from Lynchburg for a weekend in Gattleburg, Tenn.

* * * *

ATTENDING THE APPOMATTOX Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy "Real Daughter" luncheon on October 16 are left to right: Mrs. Hattie F. McFadden, Mrs. Ruth T. Clapp, Mrs. Ruth M. Williamson, Mrs. Nettie F. McCormick, Mrs. Marion C. Tweedy, Mrs. Minnie F. Martin and Mrs. Bertha F. Almond.

U.D.C. honors "real daughters"

By MRS. TILDEN LEE

The Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met on Thursday, October 16, at 1:00 p.m. at Maude's Restaurant for a luncheon meeting, to honor all daughters of a Confederate Veteran living in Appomattox County.

There was an attendance of 39 members and guests, Mrs. Hazel Lee Martin, president presiding.

Pledges to the United States Flag were led by Mrs. Gladys Johnson salutes to the Virginia Flag were led by Mrs. Frances Harvey and salutes to the Confederate Flag led by Mrs. Claudia Moore.

The Ritual and Confederate Prayer was read by Mrs. Martin. Mrs. Harriett Cunningham gave a report of the Division Convention held at Natural Bridge, Va. on Oct. 6 to 9 that she, Mrs. Martin and Elaine Moore attended.

The Appomattox Chapter won third place on their "Year Book".

Mrs. Hazel Lee Martin reported on the display of exhibits at Farmer's National Bank on Main Street which was held on Railroad Days, October 11 and 12.

This was a display of exhibits by Harold Wyatt of Appomattox, a Civil War buff, consisting of battlefield relics from the Appomattox area, and non battlefield items, such as leather gear and uniforms, also confederate buttons, Union buckles, artillery shells, bayonets, etc.

For the bank window display a tableau of the Surrender at Appomattox, displayed General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant seated at a table in the manner of the Guillaume painting portraying the Generals as they agreed to terms of surrender on April 9, 1865 in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home. Now a part of Appomattox Court House Historical Park. Approximately 800 viewed the exhibits on Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Cunningham read a poem entitled "Little Giffen" by Dr. Francis Tokner.

Mrs. Martin returned thanks for the meal after which she awarded the "Daughters a certificate of recognition, as a daughter of a confederate veteran of the War Between the States 1861 1865.

The meeting concluded when Mrs. Cunningham led the group who joined hands in singing "Blest Be the Tie".

The next meeting will be held at Maude's Restaurant on November 20 at 12:30 p.m. when members will meet for a luncheon meeting.

TOGETHERNESS through *Advertising*

Mrs. Larry D. Spraker

Yvonne Johnson weds Larry D. Spraker

The marriage of Yvonne Johnson to Larry D. Spraker took place Saturday, Sept. 27 at Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox with Rev. Rex Bennett officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Ruby Stanley of Appomattox and the late Willard J. Batten. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Spraker of Wytheville, Va.

The bride was given in marriage by her daughters, Roni Lynn and Tara.

The couple will live in Appomattox where both are employed by Armstrong Furniture Co.

Methodists slate Homecoming

Memorial United Methodist Church will celebrate Homecoming on November 2 with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m.

The worship service will have special music and recognition of the largest family present, the eldest man and woman and guest from farthest distance. Senior citizen members of the Church will be our honored guests for the day.

A covered-dish luncheon will be at noon. Members are asked to bring their families and friends and former members are invited.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie R. (Butch) May of Route 1, Brookneal, announce the birth of a daughter, Karen Michelle, on October 3. Mr. and Mrs. May also have a son Steven, age 3 years.

The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elred Guthrie of Route 1, Nathalie, Va. The paternal grandparents are the Mr. and Mrs. Ralph May.

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